

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 HEW-08 SCI-06 AID-20 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3774

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GENEVA FOR DR. EHRLICH, USDEL, WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: WHO PFOR

SUBJECT: PAHO - ELECTION OF DIRECTOR

REF: STATE 92970 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBOFF MAY 10 DISCUSSED ELECTION OF PAHO DIRECTOR WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY ACTING DIRECTORY OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY MARTINEZ. MARTINEZ SAID PRESIDENT PEREZ DECIDED TO "REACTIVATE" VALLADARES' CANDIDACY AND ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TEN DAYS AGO TO AMBASSADORS CONCERNED, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON AGUILAR, TO ADVISE HOST GOVERNMENTS. VALLADARES IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO FORMER AND PRESENT PRESIDENTS AND FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. MARTINEZ' ANALYSIS OF CANDIDATES' SUPPORT VARIES FROM THAT PROVIDED IN MEXICO 3274. HE SAID ECUADOR, GUYANA AND ARGENTINA ARE NOT IN ACUNA'S CAMP BUT ARE STILL UNDECIDED AND COLOMBIA HAS NOT MADE UP ITS MIND. HE SAID EL SALVADOR IS WAVERING AND PROBABLY CAN BE BROUGHT TO BACK VALLADARES IN RETURN FOR VENEZUELAN BACKING FOR EL SALVADOR'S NOMINEE FOR A KEY FAO POSITION. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT IT IS INCUMBENT DIRECTOR HOROWITZ, RATHER THAN ACUNA, WHO HAS MOST SUPPORT IN CENTRAL AMERICA, AND HE CONCURRED THAT CHILE, BRAZIL, HONDURAS AND PARAGUAY ARE FOR HOROWITZ. HE RECALLED THAT VENEZUELA AND THE US AGREE ON NEED FOR ROTATION IN
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THIS KEY POSITION.

3. MARTINEZ OPINED THAT SINCE VENEZUELA HAS JUST REACTIVATED VALLADARES' CANDIDACY, IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHICH CANDIDATE WILL BE THE STRONGEST. HE STATED VENEZUELA DOES NOT WANT AN UNSEEMLY SQUABBLE OVER THIS ISSUE, BUT BELIEVES VALLADARES CAN BE ELECTED AND IS THE BEST CANDIDATE. MARTINEZ NOTED VALLADARES ENJOYS NOT MERELY NATIONAL BUT INTERNATIONAL HIGH STANDING AND HAS HAD EXPERIENCE (WHICH HE CLAIMED ACUNA LACKS) IN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ORGANIZATION MANAGEMENT. HE ALSO REFERRED TO VALLADARES' FAMILY TIES WITH THE US AND HIS KNOWN FRIENDLINESS FOR OUR COUNTRY. EMBOFF REITERATED THAT THE US HAS STILL NOT DECIDED WHICH CANDIDATE TO SUPPORT.

4. GIVEN RECENT NATURE OF DECISION TO REINSTATE VALLADARES' CANDIDACY, EMBASSY SUGGESTS SOME DELAY BEFORE SOUNDING OUT HIS SUPPORT AGAIN. WHATEVER ACUNA'S BACKING, VALLADARES IS A HIGHLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATE WITH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT IN VENEZUELA.
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